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(54) **Controller for a heating unit in a cooktop and methods of operating same**

(57) The present invention provides a controller for a heating unit. The heating unit is capable of generating heat to a utensil and has a temperature sensor, a heating element, and a cooking surface. The controller has a means for measuring a temperature of a cavity within the heating unit, a means for controlling the application

of power to the heating element, and a means for determining whether to control the application of power to the heating element in an overdrive state based on a type of utensil that is located on the heating unit. The present invention also includes methods of operating the controller and the heating unit.

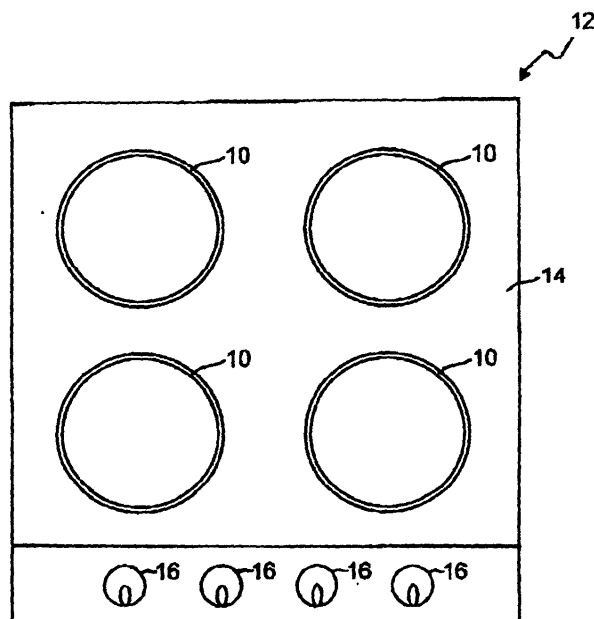


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 20 5005

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A	US 4 499 368 A (PAYNE THOMAS R) 12 February 1985 (1985-02-12) * column 9, line 14-26; figure 4 * * column 11, line 45-53 * ---	1-20	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 22 October 2003	Examiner Gea Haupt, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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